IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Kottman, Mark A.	Attorney Docket No. 087522785134
	HON Reference No. 02-I-0190
Application No.: 09/684,462	
Filed: October 6, 2000	
For: MODULAR WALL PANEL CONSTRUCTION	
Examiner: Horton, Yvonne Michele	
Art Unit: 3635	
Confirmation No.: 3279	

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently amended) A method for constructing and installing a modular wall panel assembly comprising the steps of:

forming a generally rectangular frame comprising rigid channel members including a lower generally horizontal channel member;

providing a base rail and securing said base rail to said lower channel member in spaced parallel relation thereto;

providing a pair of glide assemblies on opposite ends of said base rail, said glide assemblies each including a generally vertically oriented threaded member threadedly connected to said glide assemblies;

providing a pair of apertures in said lower channel member each aperture overlying ~~and in registry with~~ a threaded member and having an axis aligned with a longitudinal axis of said threaded member;

placing said frame, base rail and glide assemblies in vertical orientation on a floor;

inserting a rotary tool vertically through said apertures to engage said threaded members; and

rotating said threaded members selectively to thereby level said frame on said floor.

Claim 2 (Original) The method of claim 1 including the step of attaching decorative panel members to said frame after said frame has been leveled.

Claim 3 (Original) The method of claim 1 including the step of attaching a base panel member to said lower channel member and base rail to conceal said glide assemblies.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A modular panel assembly comprising:

a wall frame including a generally horizontal lower member;

a base rail beneath said lower member;

a connector attached to said base rail and to said lower member wherein said frame is supported by said connector above said base rail, said connector including a threaded sleeve positioned between said base rail and said lower member;

an adjustment member for supporting said wall frame and said base rail, said adjustment member having a threaded stem for engaging said threaded sleeve of said connector, and said threaded stem including a tool receiving upper end portion disposed between said base rail and said lower member; and

a tool receiving aperture in said lower member aligned vertically above said tool receiving upper end portion of said threaded stem of said adjustment member, <u>said aperture and said threaded stem having parallel axes</u>.

Claim 5 (Original) The wall panel assembly of claim 4 including decorative panel members secured to said frame.

Claim 6 (Previously Amended) The wall panel assembly of claim 4 including a base panel member secured to said lower member of said frame.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A method for vertically adjusting a modular wall panel assembly comprising the steps of:

forming a wall frame including a lower generally horizontal member;

providing a base rail;

providing a pair of glide assemblies;

operatively connecting said glide assemblies to said base rail and said lower member of said wall frame, said glide assemblies each including a generally vertically oriented adjustment member;

providing a pair of apertures in said lower member of said wall frame, each aperture vertically aligned above an adjustment member, said aperture having an axis disposed parallel to an axis of said adjustment member;

inserting a rotary tool vertically through said apertures to engage said adjustment members; and

rotating said adjustment members with said rotary tool.

Claim 9 (New) A modular panel assembly comprising:

a frame having a lower member having opposite end portions;

a rail positioned below said lower member and extending parallel thereto, said rail having opposite end portions;

a pair of tower brackets, each bracket being attached to said rail and to said lower member for supporting said frame at a fixed distance from said rail, and each of said brackets including a threaded sleeve having a longitudinal central axis extending in a vertical direction;

a pair of threaded adjustment members, each adjustment member being received by a corresponding threaded sleeve, each of said adjustment members having a vertical longitudinal axis and an upper end portion being structured and dimensioned for receiving a tool to cause rotation of said adjustment member around said vertical longitudinal axis; and

a pair of horizontally disposed apertures in said lower member structured having vertical axes and dimensioned to allow passage of a vertically oriented tool to enable said tool to make operable contact with said upper end portion of said adjustment member.

Claim 10 (New) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein:

each of said brackets is attached to an end portion of said rail and an end portion of said lower member.

Claim 11 (New) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein:

said lower member includes vertically disposed side walls about said aperture.

Claim 12 (New) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 11 wherein:

said lower member includes vertically disposed apertures in said side walls structured and dimensioned to receive snap-fit fasteners.

Claim 13 (New) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein:

said rail includes a pair of apertures for receiving said adjustment members.

Claim 14 (New) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein:

each of said brackets including structure for connecting to a kick plate.

Claim 15 (New) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 9 wherein:

said upper end portion of each of said adjustment members having the form of a hex head.

Claim 16 (New) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 10 wherein:

said rail includes a pair of apertures for receiving said adjustment members.

Claim 17 (New) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 16 wherein:

said lower member includes vertically disposed side walls about said aperture; and

said lower member includes vertically disposed apertures in said side walls structured and dimensioned to receive snap-fit fasteners.

Claim 18 (New) The modular panel assembly as claimed in claim 17 wherein:

each of said brackets including structure for connecting to a kick plate; and

said upper end portion of each of said adjustment members having the form of a hex head.

Claim 19 (New) A method for constructing and installing a modular wall panel assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a generally rectangular frame, said frame having a lower member;

providing a base rail;

providing a pair of bracket assemblies;

attaching said pair of bracket assemblies to said lower member and to said rail such that said rail is generally parallel to and spaced from said lower member with said lower member being at a higher elevation than said rail;

said brackets each including a threaded sleeve aligned to have a longitudinal axis in a vertical direction;

said lower member having horizontally disposed apertures aligned such that said longitudinal axis of each threaded sleeve passes through a corresponding aperture;

providing a pair of threaded adjustment members having upper ends structured and dimensioned to receive a tool;

rotating said adjustment members into corresponding threaded sleeves;

placing said frame, rail and brackets in a vertical orientation on a floor;

inserting a rotatable tool vertically through said apertures of said lower member in general alignment with said longitudinal axes of said sleeves and engaging said upper ends of said adjustment members; and

rotating said tool and adjustment members to horizontally level said frame in relation to said floor.

Claim 20 (New) The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein:

attaching said pair of brackets to end portions of said lower member and said rail.